INFINITY

MARVEL

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003

FINAL

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INSIDE: THANOS' RETURN?; THE BUILDERS: WHAT WE KNOW; EVACUATION INFO

ASTRO-NUTS

The Builders – a spacefaring race bent on galactic conquest – are bearing down on Earth with a sizable armada. Captain America has decided to rally The Avengers to go off-world and meet the Builder threat head-on, leaving street-level heroes like Spider-Man to defend Earth on their own.

THANOS RISING

The Builders aren't the only cosmic threat on the horizon – sources are reporting that Thanos, the Mad Titan himself, might be mobilizing his own fleet to take advantage of Earth's spacebound Avengers and lowered defenses.

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...WON'T THIS DELUGE OF GOONS EVER STOP?...IT'S GOTTA BE A WEEK NOW...
New York City.
...FEELS LIKE I'M MAKING A CAREER OF BATTLING THIS INVASION.
LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE, POWER MAN...
"...IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU HAD A CAREER."
The Cloisters Museum, New York City.

SYLVIA-- THERE YOU ARE!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? WE'RE BEING EVACUATED...
...THE ALIEN THREAT IS SPREADING FROM MIDTOWN!
OF COURSE IT IS.
WHAT DO WE EXPECT WHEN WE INSIST ON CONTINUALLY SHOOTING GIANT CHUNKS OF OUR TECHNOLOGY INTO SPACE? IT'S LIKE WE'RE ANNOUNCING A COSMIC YARD SALE.
I'M HEADED FOR AN AIR-RAID SHELTER. YOU COMING?
RIGHT BEHIND YOU. ISH.
+SIGH+
THIS MODERN WORLD...TURN YOU INTO A RAT IN A MAZE IF YOU LET IT.
REACTING TO EVERY LITTLE TWITCH AND TUMULT...

...IF WE'D ALL JUST SLOW DOWN, LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH BETTER.
PICK IT UP, HEROES-- THEY'RE COMIN' DOWN FASTER THAN WE'RE KNOCKIN' 'EM OUT.
SPEED IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR STRATEGY, CAGE...
...IT STANDS TO REASON THAT THE MAJORITY OF THESE MARAUDERS ARE FROM WORLDS WHOSE GRAVITY, MAGNETIC FIELDS AND CHEMICAL COMPOSITION ARE DIFFERENT FROM OUR OWN.
THEY COULDN'T FUNCTION HERE WITHOUT THE AID OF CONVERSION UNITS...
...AND IT'S FAR EASIER TO TAKE OUT THE DEVICES THAN IT IS TO TOPPLE THE BEHEMOTHS BENEATH.
+GASP+
NO NEED TO THANK ME FOR THE LESSON ON HOW TO DO YOUR JOB...
GLUG

"...THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN IS ONLY TOO HAPPY TO SHOW YOU A BETTER WAY."
THINGS WERE BETTER IN THE OLD DAYS, WHEN PEOPLE LIVED BY THE RHYTHMS OF THE EARTH AND THE PASSING OF THE SEASONS...
...DEVOTING THEMSELVES TO GENTLE PURSUITS... TO CONTEMPLATION AND FELLOWSHIP... TO SERENITY...
...UNINTERRUPTED BY THE SHOCKS AND UPHEAVALS OF OUR CRUDE, CLAMOROUS, BRUTISH ERA.

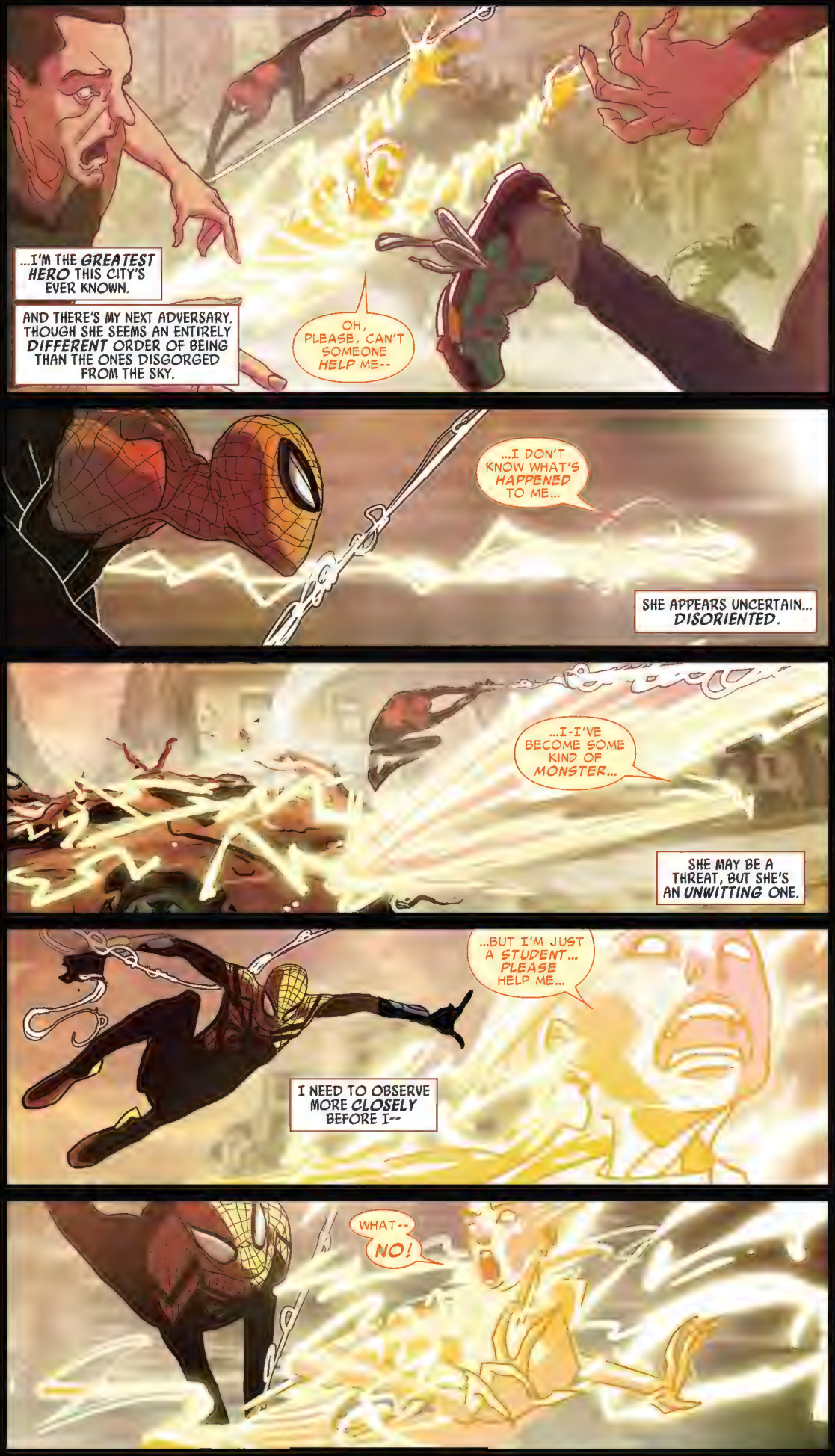
SIGH
SUPPOSE I'D BETTER GO.
ONCE MORE OUT INTO A WORLD *DISTORTED* AND *DERANGED* BY TOO MUCH TECHNOLOGY...
...TOO MUCH WAYWARD, INHUMAN *POWER* TO BE CONTAINED BY ANY CIVILIZATION, ANY *WORLD*...
...WHAT?-- LOCKED!... I WAITED TOO LONG.
I'M TRAPPED... *SEALED IN.* STUPID TECHNOLOGY.
STILL, I CAN'T REALLY COMPLAIN. AFTER ALL...
...WHAT CAN POSSIBLY HAPPEN TO ME IN *HERE?*
OHH...
...OHHH...
"MAYBE I'M *DELUSIONAL*..."

...BUT I THINK WE'RE FINALLY IN THE HOME STRETCH WITH THESE BASTARDS.
HAH! DREAM ON...
...GIVEN THE MAGNITUDE OF THIS INVASION FORCE, WE'LL BE CLEANING UP MANHATTAN FOR DAYS TO COME.
BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, SPECTRUM...
...I'LL COVER FOR YOU, IF YOU NEED A LITTLE NAP.
DAYS MORE, WITH YOU SNARKING AT ME?

"...FORGET THE NAP, I'LL TAKE A COMA."
HRRRRK...
HRRRMM...
...NNNGH... MNNNH...
AAAAGH!
"BET YOU DIDN'T EXPECT ME BURSTING IN ON YOU LIKE THIS..."

...NOT AS EASY TO GET AWAY AS YOU THOUGHT, EH, YOU INTERSTELLAR TROGLODYTE?
EARTH'S GRAVITY BEARING DOWN ON YOU, IS IT?...
...WELL NOT AS MUCH AS THE EVER-NIMBLE SPIDER-MAN!
IS THIS THE BEST THEY CAN MUSTER?
OR ARE THEY HOLDING BACK THE CREAM OF THEIR LEGIONS FOR THE AVENGERS TEAM IN SPACE?...BECAUSE IF SO, I FOR ONE AM INSULTED--
BZZT BZZT BZZT!
HM.
AN ALERT FROM ONE OF MY SPIDER-BOTS OF A NONHUMAN DISTURBANCE IN UPPER MANHATTAN.
HADN'T REALIZED THE INVASION FORCE HAD DISPERSED THAT FAR...
...NEVER MIND, THEY'RE ABOUT TO GET COMPANY.
YO, SPIDEY...

...YOU JUST GONNA WALTZ OFF AND LEAVE THIS BIG BADDIE LYING HERE?
STILL YOUR TERROR, CITIZEN! EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE CREATURE COMES TO...
...I'VE WRECKED HIS GRAVITY NULLIFIER, SO HE WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND.
WHAT THE--
WHO SEZ I'M TERRIFIED?
JERK.
THIS IS... DISTRESSING.
IN ALL THE TIME I'VE INHABITED PETER PARKER'S BODY, I'VE NOT WITNESSED DESTRUCTION ON SUCH A SCALE.
AND WHAT UNSETTLES ME MORE THAN THE DEVASTATION ITSELF...
...IS THE KNOWLEDGE THAT, IN MY PRIOR LIFE AS DOCTOR OCTOPUS, I ONCE HAD AMBITIONS FOR THIS CITY THAT WERE NO LESS CATASTROPHIC.
BUT THAT'S ALL IN THE PAST, NOW. I'M DOCTOR OCTOPUS NO LONGER. NOW...


...I'M THE GREATEST HERO THIS CITY'S EVER KNOWN.
AND THERE'S MY NEXT ADVERSARY. THOUGH SHE SEEMS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT ORDER OF BEING THAN THE ONES DISGORGED FROM THE SKY.
OH, PLEASE, CAN'T SOMEONE HELP ME--
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME...
SHE APPEARS UNCERTAIN... DISORIENTED.
...I-I'VE BECOME SOME KIND OF MONSTER...
SHE MAY BE A THREAT, BUT SHE'S AN UNWITTING ONE.
...BUT I'M JUST A STUDENT... PLEASE HELP ME...
I NEED TO OBSERVE MORE CLOSELY BEFORE I--
WHAT--
NO!

WHAT--
WHAT IS SHE--
WHOOM!!

STAY AWAY
AAAGH
HELP ME
SO FRIGHTENED
PLEASE
HURT YOU

GO AWAY
HELP ME
SO CONFUSED
SHOOM!
DAMPER FIELD...
...DEVISED FOR WHEN I DEAL WITH MY OLD SINISTER SIX COLLEAGUE, ELECTRO.
SEE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP #5 FOR MORE ELECTRO/-SEMI-CONDUCTIVE SANA
NICE TO KNOW IT WORKS. NOT THAT I EVER DOUBTED IT.
YOU--
--YOU DON'T WIELD ELECTRICITY...
...YOU ARE ELECTRICITY!

THIS IS REALLY QUITE MARVELOUS! HOW DID YOU MANAGE IT?
I DIDN'T MANAGE ANYTHING! I'M JUST A MEDIEVAL STUDIES UNDERGRAD...
THIS MIST CAME OUT OF NOWHERE AND KNOCKED ME OUT. THE NEXT THING I KNEW...I WAS... THIS!
PLEASE, TELL ME...
...HOW DO I CHANGE BACK?
WELL, LEAVING ASIDE THE QUESTION OF WHY ON EARTH YOU'D EVER WANT TO...
...I DON'T KNOW. I'D HAVE TO STUDY YOU.
IN FACT, I'D VERY MUCH LIKE TO STUDY YOU...
...BUT AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE AN ALIEN INVASION TO CONTEND WITH.
HOW VEXING THAT SUCH A THING SHOULD GET IN THE WAY OF SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY...

...STILL, IT'S ALL ABOUT CHASING DOWN THE LAST FEW RANDOM HOLDOUTS AT THIS POINT.
WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH ME TO TIMES SQUARE...
...WE'LL CHECK IN WITH MY FELLOW AVENGERS, THEN I'LL BE FREE TO TAKE YOU TO MY LAB FOR A THOROUGH EXAMINATION.
WHAT? ME? TIMES SQUARE? AVENGERS?
I COULD BE KILLED!
IS THAT YOUR WORRY?
REST ASSURED, IN YOUR PRESENT STATE YOU'RE MUCH HARDER TO DESTROY, BY ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE IN FACT, THAN YOU WERE AS A MERE HUMAN...
...IN FACT, YOUR POWERS MAY BE SUFFICIENT TO MAKE YOU A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.
YOU MIGHT EVEN FIND YOURSELF IN A POSITION TO HELP FORGE A BETTER WORLD.
BUT...I'M NOBODY. I'M JUST A STUDENT NAMED SYLVIA PRELL...

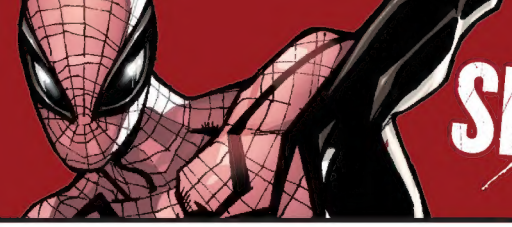
LET ME SUGGEST A SIMPLE PSYCHOLOGICAL TRICK:
CEASE TO THINK OF YOURSELF AS SYLVIA PRELL. GIVE YOURSELF A NEW AND MORE FITTING NAME--AT LEAST TEMPORARILY--AND YOU'LL SOON FIND YOURSELF BECOMING THAT NEW PERSONA.
TRUST ME. NO ONE KNOWS THE TRUTH OF THIS BETTER THAN I.
I...I SUPPOSE FULMINA, THEN.
BASED ON THE LATIN WORD FOR "LIGHTNING."
HOW ADMIRABLY PEDANTIC.
COME ALONG, THEN. THIS LITTLE DIVERSION HAS ALREADY CONSUMED FAR TOO MUCH TIME.
BUT... HOW?
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST HOP A CAB. I'D FRY THE INTERIOR TO A CRISP.
YOU DON'T NEED A CAB.
JUST HOP THE POWER LINES AND RIDE THE GRID TO TIMES SQUARE.
I...I CAN DO THAT?

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
YOU'RE NOT THE *FIRST* ENERGY BEING I'VE ENCOUNTERED, AND THEY'VE ALL BEEN ABLE TO DO SO...
...IN FACT, YOU OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO *BEAT* ME THERE.
DON'T LET THAT MAKE YOU *COCKY*...

"...AFTER ALL, I'M STILL THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN."
WEB-SLINGER! HELL YOU BEEN?
UP NORTH-- RECRUITING A POSSIBLE FUTURE ALLY. WHAT'S THE SITUATION HERE?
STILL TRACKING DOWN THE LAST OF THE SPACE-UGLIES...
...SO WHERE IS THIS SO-CALLED "ALLY," CHUCKLES? YOUR LEGENDARY CHARM SCARE HIM OFF ALREADY?
IT'S A FEMALE, CAGE-- BY DISPOSITION, IF NO LONGER QUITE BY BIOLOGY...
...AND SHE'S ARRIVING BY WAY OF THE POWER LINES.
UH, YEAH...ABOUT THAT...
CAN'T GET OUT!
TRAPPED IN GRID
...LOOKS LIKE SHE'S HAVIN' TROUBLE FINDIN' THE EXIT RAMP.
HELP!
SPIDER-MAN

BLAST. SHE'S NEW AT THIS...SHE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO EMERGE AND COALESCE.
WHERE'S THE RAMBEAU WOMAN?...SHE CAN ASSUME AN ELECTRICAL FORM, FIND HER, AND WALK FULMINA THROUGH IT.
THE "RAMBEAU WOMAN" IS A TAD BUSY WITH AN ALIEN INVASION RIGHT NOW...
...SORRY SHE CAN'T BE YOUR SUPER HERO BABYSITTER.
BRRRRT BRRRT
QUIET-- MY PHONE...
HELLO?
SPIDER-MAN? IT'S SYLVI-- I MEAN, IT'S FULMINA.
GOOD GIRL... YOU'RE NOT PANICKING. YOU'RE FIGURING IT OUT...
OH, I'M FIGURING IT OUT, ALL RIGHT. HERE IN THE GRID, IT'S ALL LAID OUT FOR ME... EVERYTHING.
INCLUDING MY DESTINY.
I'M... SORRY. YOUR WHAT?
YOU WERE RIGHT, I CAN USE MY POWERS TO MAKE THIS A BETTER WORLD.
NOT A WORLD OF BRUTE FORCE AND CHAOS, BUT A QUIETER, SLOWER, MORE CONTEMPLATIVE WORLD. A WORLD WE HAVEN'T SEEN IN SIX HUNDRED YEARS.
FULMINA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU CAN'T JUST ROLL BACK THE CENTURIES.
NO ONE CAN.

WATCH ME.
To Be Continued...



SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN TEAM-UP

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TO INFINITY!

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INFINITY #2

INFINITY #3

AND BEYOND!

NOVA #9

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #7

MIGHTY AVENGERS #2